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Editorial: Here comes Election Day

Well, this is it. This is your chance to put your ballot where your mouth is. If you've ever complained about how local government is run, your time to take action is nigh.

As we reported in Wednesday's paper, Election Day is less than two weeks away, and our collective future is in your hands.

Casting an uninformed vote can be worse than not voting at all, though. Anyone who has voted before surely knows the empty feeling of encountering a race they hadn't heard about before at the ballot box. If you're still unsure for whom to vote, take care to study today's Election Guide. We hope this gives you some idea of what races are being contested, which candidates are running and where they stand on the issues that most impact your daily life.

As we previously reported, Howard County residents have a variety of ways to cast their ballots this fall. Sure, you can wait until Nov. 4, when the polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., to make your voice heard. (Those unsure of whether they are registered to vote, what precinct they are in and who is on their ballot can visit bit.ly/1kzA0Uw.)

But if you've done your due diligence and you're ready to pull the trigger, absentee ballots are now available. The Howard County Clerk's absentee office inside the county courthouse will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday leading up to the election for those who plan on voting early. Registered voters are asked to bring their ID if they plan to cast their ballot in this way. (The deadline for absentee voting is noon Nov. 3.)

However you decide to vote, the important part is that you do. Midterm election turnout is historically much lower than presidential elections. If you sit this one out, you don't have anyone to blame but yourself for whatever happens next.